

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

applying the ~~or each~~ one or more template files associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that given directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the ~~or each~~ one or more template files is applied;

wherein the applying the ~~or each~~ one or more template files associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the ~~or each~~ one or more associated template files.

2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories and in which the one or more ~~templates~~ template files associated with each directory located in

the direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including the uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement are also associated with the directory in which the content file is stored.

3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:  
associating metadata with each content file; and  
carrying out the respective pre-determined operation on each content file upon the application of an associated template file on the basis of the respective associated metadata.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

means for associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to the content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

means for applying the ~~or each~~ one or more template files associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that given directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the ~~or each~~ one or more template files is applied;

wherein the applying the ~~or each~~ one or more template files associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory by the means for applying generates a corresponding templated information-bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the ~~or each~~ one or more associated template files.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories, in which the means for associating one or more ~~templates~~ template files with each directory also associates with the directory in which the content file is stored, the one or more ~~templates~~ template files associated with each directory located in the direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including the uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement.

7. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the means for associating one or more ~~templates~~ template files with each directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

8. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 further comprising:

means for associating metadata with each content file; wherein the respective pre-determined operation on each content file upon the application of an associated template file is carried out on the basis of the respective associated metadata.

9. (previously presented) A computer program storage device readable by a computer, said device embodying computer readable code executable by the computer to perform the method according to claim 1.

10. (previously presented) A signal embodying computer executable code for loading into a computer for the performance of the method according to claim 1.

11. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being stored in at least one of that directory and a parent directory of that directory.

12. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the means for associating one or more ~~templates~~ template files with each directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in at least one of that directory or a parent directory of that directory.

13. (currently amended) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing a plurality of content files and a plurality of template files and the computer file system being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more of the plurality of content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

searching the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files for one of the plurality of template files;

determining if the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files also stores the one of the plurality of template files; and

applying the one of the plurality of template files to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory if a determination is made that the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files also stores the one of the plurality of template files so that each of the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory ~~generates~~ is utilized to generate a corresponding templated information bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the one of the plurality of template files.

14. (currently amended) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing a plurality of content files and a plurality of template files and the computer file system being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating one or more of the plurality of content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

means for searching the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files for one of the plurality of template files;

means for determining if the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files also stores the one of the plurality of template files; and

means for applying the one of the plurality of template files to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory if a determination is made that the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files also stores the one of the plurality of template files so that each of the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory ~~generates~~ is utilized to generate a corresponding templated information bearing content file whose appearance is controlled by the one of the plurality of template files.

15. (previously presented) A method of managing information-bearing documents stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing both documents and template files and being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating at least one of the documents being stored in a particular directory of the computer file system;

searching the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents for one of the template files;

determining if the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents also stores the one of the template files;

applying the one of the template files stored in the particular directory to each document stored in that particular directory if a determination is made that the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents also stores the one of the template files to generate at least one corresponding template information bearing document whose appearance is controlled by the one of the template files.

16. (previously presented) Apparatus for managing information-bearing documents stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing both one or more documents and one or more template files and being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating at least one of the documents being stored in a particular directory of the computer file system;

means for searching the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents for one of the template files;

means for determining if the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents also stores the one of the template files;

means for applying the one of the template files stored in the particular directory to each document stored in that particular directory if a determination is made that the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents also stores the one of the template files to generate at least one corresponding template information bearing document whose appearance is controlled by the one of the template files.

17.-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method of generating templated information-bearing document using a computer system operating in accordance with an operating system which permits electronic files to be stored in a hierarchical computer file system having one or more directories each of which may store one or more files and may have one or more directories as sub-directories, the method comprising:

associating a template file with a directory, the template file being suitable for controlling the appearance of a document to which the template of the template file is applied;

storing one or more documents in the directory; and

automatically processing the ~~or each~~ one or more documents in the directory in accordance with the associated template file to thereby generate ~~a~~ one or more corresponding templated information-bearing ~~document or~~ documents, whose appearance is controlled by the associated template file.

24. (currently amended) A method as in claim 23, wherein the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories, and the ~~one or more~~ templates file associated with each directory located in a direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a document is stored up to and including an uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement ~~are~~ is also associated with the directory in which the document is stored.

25. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being



stored in that directory.

26. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, further comprising:

associating metadata with each document; and

wherein the step of automatically processing each document in accordance with an associated template file is also carried out in accordance with the respective associated metadata.

27. (previously presented) An apparatus for generating templated information-bearing content files, the apparatus comprising:

a computer system operating in accordance with an operating system which permits electronic files to be stored in a hierarchical computer file system having one or more directories each of which may store one or more files and may have one or more directories as sub-directories;

means for associating a template file with a directory, the template file being suitable for controlling the appearance of a document to which the template of the template file is applied; and

automatic processing means for automatically processing at least one document within a directory in accordance with a template file associated with such a directory by said associating means to generate at least one corresponding templated information-bearing document, whose appearance, when displayed using a suitable viewing application, is controlled by the associated template file.

28. (currently amended) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories, and the means for associating a template file with a directory also associates with the directory in which the document is stored, the ~~one or more templates~~ file associated with each directory located in a direct hierarchical path from a directory in which the document is stored up to and including an uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement.

29. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the means for associating a template file with a directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

30. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, further comprising:

means for associating metadata with each document;

wherein the automatic processing means is also operable to carry out the automatic processing in accordance with the respective associated metadata.

31. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, further comprising applying a template file associated with a parent directory of the given directory to each content file stored in the given directory in addition to applying the ~~or each one or more~~ template files associated with the given directory to each content file stored in that given directory so that multiple template files are applied to each content file stored in the given directory.

32. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 5, further comprising means for applying a template file associated with a parent directory of the given directory to each content file stored in the given directory so that multiple template files are applied to each content file stored in the given directory.

33. (currently amended) A method as in claim 23, further comprising processing the ~~or each~~ one or more documents in the directory in accordance with a template file associated with a parent directory of the directory in addition to automatically processing the ~~or each~~ one or more documents in the directory in accordance with the ~~or each~~ template file associated with the directory so that the ~~or each~~ one or more documents in the directory is processed in accordance with multiple template files.

34. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, further comprising means for processing the at least one document within the directory in accordance with a template file associated with a parent directory of the directory so that the at least one document is processed in accordance with multiple template files.

35. (previously presented) A method as in claim 13, further comprising:

searching a parent directory of the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files for the one of the plurality of template files if a determination is made that the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files does not

also store the one of the plurality of template files;

determining if the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of template files;  
and

applying the one of the plurality of the template files stored in the parent directory  
to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory if a  
determination is made that the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of template  
files.

36. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 14, further  
comprising:

means for searching a parent directory of the directory storing the one or more of  
the plurality of content files for the one of the plurality of template files if a determination  
is made by the means for determining that the directory storing the one or more of the  
plurality of content files does not also store the one of the plurality of template files;

means for determining if the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of  
template files; and

means for applying the one of the plurality of the template files stored in the  
parent directory to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory  
if a determination is made that the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of  
template files.

37. (previously presented) A method as in claim 15, further  
comprising:

searching a parent directory of the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents for the one of the template files if a determination is made that the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents does not also store the one of the plurality of template files;

determining if the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of template files;  
and

applying the one of the plurality of the template files stored in the parent directory to the at least one of the documents stored in the directory if a determination is made that the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of template files.

38. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising:

means for searching a parent directory of the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents for the one of the plurality of template files if a determination is made by the means for determining that the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents does not also store the one of the plurality of template files;

means for determining if the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of template files; and

means for applying the one of the plurality of the template files stored in the parent directory to the at least one of the documents stored in the directory if a determination is made that the parent directory stores the one of the plurality of template files.

39. (previously presented) A method as in claim 13, further comprising searching a parent directory of the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files for another one of the plurality of template files;

determining if the parent directory stores another one of the plurality of template files; and

applying the another one of the plurality of template files to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory if a determination is made that the parent directory stores the another one of the plurality of template files so that multiple template files are applied to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus as in claim 14, further comprising searching a parent directory of the directory storing the one or more of the plurality of content files for another one of the plurality of template files;

means for determining if the parent directory stores another one of the plurality of template files; and

means for applying the another one of the plurality of template files to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory if a determination is made that the parent directory stores the another one of the plurality of template files so that multiple template files are applied to the one or more of the plurality of content files stored in the directory.

41. (previously presented) A method as in claim 15, further comprising:

searching a parent directory of the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents for another one of the plurality of template files;

determining if the parent directory stores another one of the plurality of template files; and

applying the another one of the plurality of template files to the documents stored in the particular directory if a determination is made that the parent directory stores the another one of the plurality of template files so that multiple template files are applied to the at least one of the documents stored in the particular directory.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus as in claim 16, further comprising:

means for searching a parent directory of the particular directory storing the at least one of the documents for another one of the plurality of template files;

means for determining if the parent directory stores another one of the plurality of template files; and

means for applying the another one of the plurality of template files to the at least one of the documents stored in the particular directory if a determination is made that the parent directory stores the another one of the plurality of template files so that multiple template files are applied to the at least one of the documents stored in the particular directory.

43. (previously presented) A method as in claim 31, wherein one of the multiple template files applied to each content file at least partially overrides the other

template file.

44. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 32, wherein one of the multiple template files applied to each content file at least partially overrides the other template file.

45. (currently amended) A method as in claim 33, wherein one of the template files used to process the ~~or each one or more~~ documents at least partially overrides the other template file.

46. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 34, wherein one of the template files used to process the at least one document at least partially overrides the other template file.

47. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the corresponding templated information-bearing content file is stored in the given directory which stores each content file to which the template file has been applied.

48. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 5, wherein the corresponding templated information-bearing content file is stored in the given directory which stores each content file to which the template file has been applied.

49. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein the



corresponding templated information-bearing document is stored in the directory which stores each document processed by the associated template file.

50. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the corresponding templated information-bearing document is stored in the directory which stores each document processed by the associated template file.

51. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the ~~or each~~ one or more template files is stored in a directory separate from the directory storing the one or more content files, the directory storing the ~~or each~~ one or more template files also storing a lookup table which associates the ~~or each~~ one or more template files with the directory in which the one or more content files are stored.

52. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 5, wherein the means for associating comprises a look-up table stored in a directory separate from the directory in which the one or more content files are stored.

53. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein the template file associated with the directory storing the one or more documents is stored in a separate directory, the separate directory also storing a look-up table for associating the template file with the directory storing the one or more documents.

54. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the

means for associating comprises a look-up table stored in a directory separate from the directory in which the at least one document is stored.